

February 10, 2015

Dear Transportation Committee Members:

I am writing to oppose senate bill 262. This bill would require that municipalities and transit districts operating transit vehicles be subjected to the same DOT inspections that private carrier's undergo.

While this bill will impact all transit districts in the state, it would also impact many municipalities. This would include the towns like Madison that operate buses for seniors and disabled persons.

As public entities, the safety of the public is our utmost concern. There would be no reason for a municipality or transit district not to maintain our vehicles to the highest standards, as we answer only to our citizens, not shareholders.

In addition, the DOT already oversees the maintenance programs of each rural operator and municipality that operates transit vehicles. This is done through the 5311 and 5310 programs which fund the acquisition of transit vehicles. This is why the DOT also objects to this bill.

While I have no concerns that we would easily pass an additional DOT inspection, the logistics of inspection would be burdensome. We operate on a tight spare ratio, and our service span would require vehicles to be pulled out of service to be inspected, having a severe negative impact on our customers.

I hope you will join the Estuary Transit District in opposing senate bill 262 as an unnecessary burden on our municipalities and transit districts.

Sincerely,

Joseph Comerford
Executive Director
Estuary Transit District